

Personal foul: 15 yards, excessive lack of logic

Take your foot out of your mouth Victor Kiam, it's National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue's turn to be the NFL's buffoon.

Tagliabue appeared before an Oregon legislative panel last week, espousing the evils of the state's Sports Action lottery game. He said Sports Action undermines public confidence in the integrity of professional football games.

Wake up and smell the pigskin, Paul.

It would take a lot more money than the Oregon game can offer for a player to risk his NFL career for the peanuts offered by Sports Action.

For \$1, fans can wager on the outcome of up to 14 football games. The biggest payoff to date was about \$80,000 when somebody correctly picked 14 games out of 14.

According to Tagliabue, the integrity of the game might be threatened because of a potential for point-fixing (when a player is bribed to try and affect the score of the game). However, would someone who is going to win a possible \$80,000 prize be able to afford to buy off NFL millionaires? To win the ultimate Sports Action prize, betters would need to pick 14 games correctly. That means buying off at least 14 players — assuming one player from each team would be enough to control the game's outcome. After paying off these players there wouldn't be much of that \$80,000 left over.

If Tagliabue is so concerned about betting on games, he should go to Nevada and talk to their legislature. More money is bet on a single NFL game in 30 seconds in Vegas than in a whole week in Oregon. Hundreds of millions of dollars changes hands in Nevada over NFL football during a weekend.

The betting in Nevada has much more potential for corruption than that of Oregon's game. In Nevada, a person can get rich by picking just one game and betting a lot of money on it. The chances of fixing one game — with a potentially huge payoff — makes Nevada the bigger risk to the NFL's integrity.

When asked about this Tagliabue responded that gambling is entrenched in Nevada, and gambling has been legal for 50 years there. Of course, if he planned to talk to their state legislature about the evils of gambling, he would be laughed out of town before he unpacked.

Tagliabue gave good lip service to the reasoning behind his opposition to Sports Action. But the real reason he and NFL owners don't like the game is that somebody is making money off of their product and they're not getting a slice.

However, that interpretation of the game is not quite accurate. College football provides the NFL with an established minor league recruiting system. And now that the NFL, by just leaving games like Sports Action alone, can give back to the college programs that have been training their players for years, Tagliabue says no.

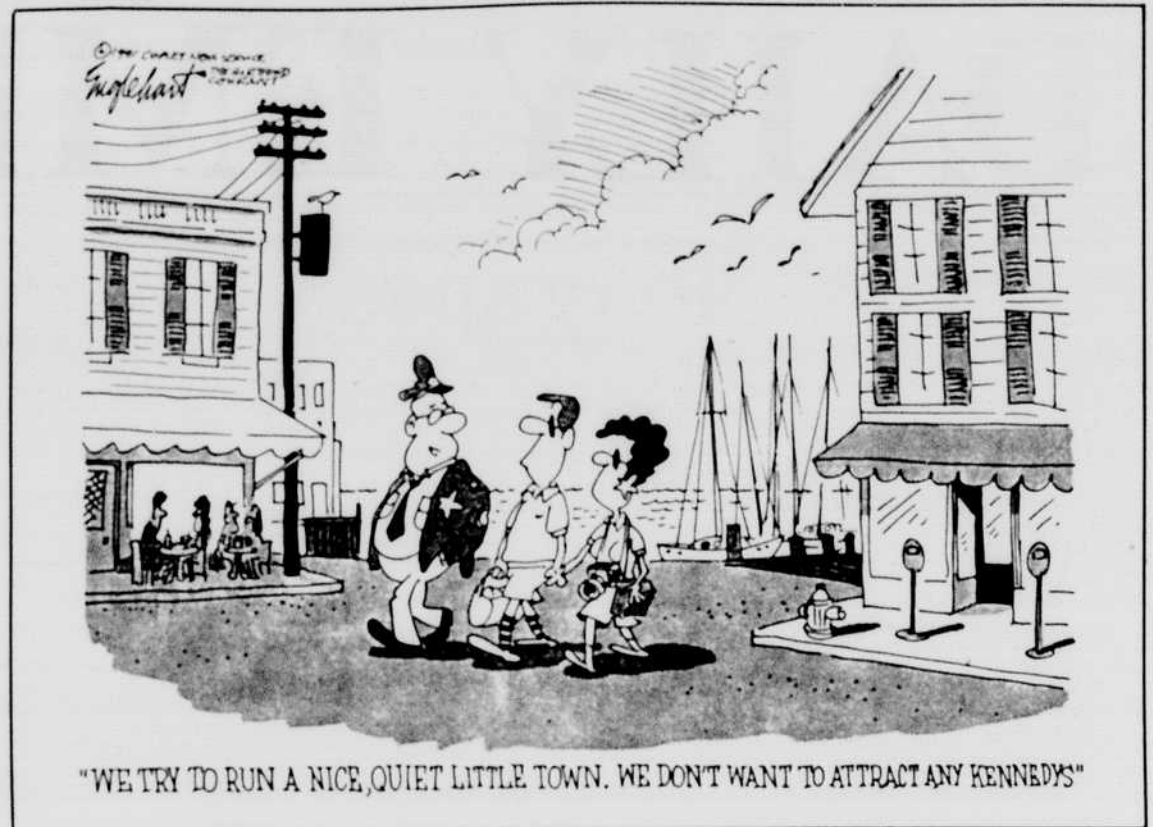
Oregon is the only Pac-10 school that does not offer state dollars to support university athletics. Sports Action was the only solution the legislature could produce to improve athletic funding without taking dollars from some other part of the budget.

A bill which recently passed the Oregon House, and is now before the Senate, would give all Sports Action funds to athletics. As it stands now, revenue from Sports Action is used to fill gaps in the general fund. After these gaps are filled, the leftover money goes to college athletics.

It boils down to whether Oregon and Oregon State will be able to afford to compete in the Pac-10 in the future. The way it stands now, these two schools are struggling to keep up with state-supported schools such as USC, UCLA, Arizona and Arizona State. If something doesn't happen soon, such as the passage of the bill now before the Senate, the Ducks and Beavers are going to find themselves battling Idaho and Montana in that all-mighty Big Sky Conference.

As for Tagliabue and his million dollar salary, football has been pretty good to him. But until he can offer constructive criticism and positive alternatives, he should stay out of Oregon's funding problems.

After all, we wouldn't want to deprive good ol' Vic of his deserved stature as the league's top public humiliation, oops that should be public relations problem.



"WE TRY TO RUN A NICE, QUIET LITTLE TOWN. WE DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT ANY KENNEDYS"

LETTERS

Womxn

In response to Lynn Lucas' letter (*ODE*, Apr. 8) concerning the spelling of woman and the reasons behind the injection of a "y" for an "a":

It might be helpful for you to realize that you may be placing a little bit of man in you every time you spell "womxn."

How, you ask? Well, according to biological law a combination of two X chromosomes produces a female offspring, while a combination of the X and Y chromosomes produces a male offspring.

So theoretically, by using a "y" in the spelling of womxn she is introducing the presence of maleness into herself.

Due to this new piece of information she may wish to once again change the spelling of woman.

Bill Lanning
Tim Strauss
Students

Step down

The result of a thorough investigation conducted by the ASUO president is that Mike Colson is believed to be guilty of the charge of note-tampering.

Kirk Bailey has recommended to the IFC that Colson resign from his position as chairman, a recommendation with which four IFC members agree. The IFC budget hearings have come to a halt due to Colson's refusal to resign.

As a student group whose budget has not yet been heard, we at the Women's Center feel that as an elected official Colson should not hold up the budget hearing process.

By refusing to resign he is not representing our interests as students. We do not believe that his resignation would be an admission of guilt, but rather his resignation would ensure that the budget process can continue effectively.

Sarah Wayman
Women's Center
and 5 co-signers

Good wyrk

As expected, virtually everyone missed my point. In order to "force prescription tranquilizers ... on those whose politics (I) disagree with" I would need an M.D., which I have no intention of getting.

Furthermore, if everyone agreed with everything I said, I fear I would be bored to tears.

Keep up the good work, gyrls. I need the entertainment.

Teresa Knezek
Psychology

Ignorance out

Once again, much to my dismay, I find you have given editorial space to Eugene's resident bigot, Jon Wollander. I find it appalling that you allow this man the space to espouse his negativity and lies about gay and lesbian people.

If he were to write the same sort of slanderous statements about black people or Jewish people or women, his letters would not be published. I sincerely hope the choice to print such offensiveness once again was done out of ignorance of the discrimination faced by gay men and lesbians, and is not an endorsement of this pitiful lack of humanity.

Deltra Ferguson
Eugene

Shift efforts

It frustrates me to hear people arguing over details while the important issues are pushed aside.

The spelling of what we call ourselves, as women or womxn, is not the issue; realizing our full potential as individuals and working to eliminate discrimination is.

Let us worry a little less about our titles or appearances and instead put our full efforts into enlightening those people who still have a one-sided discriminatory view of women.

Declaring war on our language will only alienate or confuse many of those who would

otherwise support women's rights.

Kathleen Larsen
Sociology

Unreasonable

Quoting from the April 9 issue of the *Emerald* regarding the new police bill, "We see the film out of Los Angeles and we feel a little more cautious about the power we've already given the police," said state Rep. Jim Edmunson.

I am amazed at such reasoning. Were the police really given the authority to brutalize as they did in LA? If they didn't have the authority to do this, then please explain to me the relationship between the authority police are given and the actions that they take which go beyond that authority.

Is it not also possible that making laws that restrict police authority actually frustrates police into violent acts? (No, I am not saying this has anything to do with the LA beating).

One could spend much time and money trying to research these correlations, but it all would yield nothing. No matter how carefully you construct the restraints on police authority, there will still be cases where hatred motivates somebody to go beyond the authority given them.

No matter how hard you try to implement "psychological screening" techniques, you can't predict future attitudes of people.

Here in Eugene I have been ripped off, found the culprits, and the Eugene police tell me "our hands are tied." If EPD was floating on the river I'd be the first to cut the rope and wave goodbye.

We either need to help them do their job or get rid of this expensive waste. The public officials are the servants of the taxpayers.

Bob Weigel
Lab Tech